ISSN 0027-965X

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE NEWS

Published for health science libraries and staff of the National Library of Medicine

Vol. XXXI, Nos. 9-10 Bethesda, Maryland September-October 1976

New Laboratory Applies Computer Technology to Libraries & Learning

Libraries have not, in general, been quick to employ computer technology. The reasons are numerous and include initial cost, lack of technically oriented staff and management, and lack of cost-effective models to emulate. In addition, there is the hesitancy to change shared by all large service-oriented organizations.

To help break down this reluctance, the Lister Hill Center's Computer Technology Branch is developing and demonstrating in its new Learning Resource Laboratory models of technology that can be applied to library functions. Examples of these demonstration models include an input processing system for selection and acquisitions (using a minicomputer), an online interface to the public catalog which can be used without a knowledge of ELHILL 3 and which provides a catalog card output format, and a MARC to MEDLARS translation system. The Laboratory will also be a spur to developing solutions to information processing problems that affect the health community broadly, with major effort devoted to educational technology. In a sense the Laboratory serves as a "window to the world" of the myriad innovations possible with modern computer and data communications technology.

The Laboratory, on the Library's A-Level, has been carefully laid out to make maximum use of its 20 x 24 foot space. It contains equipment that supports research and development using minicomputer, microprocessor, intelligent terminal, and graphics capabilities.

One emphasis of the Laboratory is Computer Based Educational Materials (CBEM). Several CBEM systems developed by health science education institutions are available for demonstration in the laboratory, including those from the universities of Illinois (PLATO), Kansas, Wisconsin, and California (San Francisco), Ohio State University, and the Massachusetts General Hospital. Each of the systems is unique, and their availability in the laboratory provides a centralized facility where they may all be examined and compared. The addition of more systems for demonstration is anticipated in the near future.

Persons interested in learning more about the Laboratory should contact:

Mr. Charles M. Goldstein, Chief
Computer Technology Branch
Lister Hill Center
National Library of Medicine
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

New HMD 'Prize': Paré's Les Oeuvres

The NLM History of Medicine Division recently acquired a volume of unusual interest: the seventh edition of the works of Ambrose Paré, *Les Oeuvres*, Paris, 1614.

The Library has a splendid collection of the works of this famous French surgeon—eleven of the thirteen 16th and 17th century editions. However, this newly added seventh edition is unique; it was given as the "Prix de médecine" in

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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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1806 to Gilbert Breschet, a student at the École de médecine de Paris.

The volume, of folio size, is richly bound, with the arms of Napoleon I stamped in gold on the front cover. (One can imagine the astonishment of a present day medical student were he to receive such a prize!) A certificate describing the award is pasted on to the first leaf, and there is a signed note in Breschet's handwriting on the title page.

This handsome volume is linked to a distinguished medical career. Gilbert Breschet, 1784-1845, became a surgeon at the Hôtel Dieu, and a professor of anatomy at the École de medecine. He was a member of Institut de France and the Academie des sciences. He wrote on a variety of medical subjects, and the Library owns many of his published works.

Volume I of the Toxicology Research Projects Directory Available

Is toxicological research currently being done on substance X? What studies are going on at institute Y? What toxicological research does agency Z support?

Such questions, as well as inquiries by subject on recent toxicological projects, can be answered quickly (and inexpensively) through the new *Toxicology Research Projects Directory* (*News*, January 1976).

Libraries which have not yet ordered the *Directory* on subscription from the National Technical Information Service may still obtain the first four quarterly issues comprising Volume I. This volume, with a cumulative index published as part 2 of the fourth quarter, reports about 10,000 toxicology project abstracts received by the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange (SSIE) since August 1975.

The *Directory*, carefully designed with many helpful indexes, is rapidly replacing the more expensive and cumbersome ways of retrieving similar information. Roughly half of each 800-page issue is made up of project descriptions arranged in chapters: Agricultural, Industrial, and Household Substances; Drugs, Medical Materials, Food Additives, and Cosmetics; Physical Agents and Gases; Metals, Minerals, and Trace Elements; Biotoxins; Multiple and Unspecified Agents; and Environmental Problems. The other half of each book is made up of extensive indexes: subject, principal investigator, performing organization, supporting organization, and master grant number.

Orders for Volume I should be sent to the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA 22161. Price: $50.00. Accession number: NTISUB/B/021-76-001-004. (Ordering information for Volume II will be announced in a forthcoming issue of the *News*.)

NLM Publications to Put On a New [Type] Face

This fall the Library will begin shifting its major bibliographies to photocomposition on the Government Printing Office's new VideoComp 500 photocomposing equipment. The November *Index Medicus* will be the first NLM publication so produced.

Using the GPO's VideoComp to photocompose *Index Medicus* will mean adding several extra days for production, but the Library hopes to make up most of this in the preparation and printing schedules.

Since 1964 NLM has used a Photon 900 (1964-1969) and a Photon 901 (1969-present) to compose over 500,000 pages for its bibliographies. The prototype equipment used until 1969 now resides in the Smithsonian Institution. The current Photon 901 will continue to be used to compose catalog cards, Literature Searches, and the smaller Recurring Bibliographies.

HEART RATE

Baseline fetal heart rate characteristics as an indicator of fetal status during the antepartum period. Trierweiler MW, et al. Am J Obstet Gynecol 125(5):618-23, 1 Jul 76
Anticholinergic actions of steroid muscle relaxants. Baden JM. Anaesthesia 31(2):215-8, Mar 76
Both direct and neurally mediated components of the chronotropic actions of aminophylline. Urthaler F, et al. Chest 70(1):24-32, Jul 76
Fetal activity acceleration determination for the evaluation of fetal reserve. Lee CY, et al. Obstet Gynecol 48(1):19-26, Jul 76
Electronic fetal monitoring during labor. Saldana LR, et al. Obstet Gynecol 47(6):706-10, Jun 76

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Photon 901 (left) and VideoComp sample citations. The VideoComp typeface to be used for the Library's publications is Times Roman.

An interesting sidelight is that the Photon 901 is no longer being manufactured and the Library has been scouring the country to locate existing machines that can be cannibalized for spare parts. A Photon 901 that was surplused by the National Security Agency and a second machine that was located at the New York Telephone and Telegraph Company were delivered to NLM and stripped. This has allowed the Library to acquire $150,000 worth of spare parts for the cost of shipping only.

1976-1977 Library Associates

NLM staff met and welcomed four new Library Associates at a reception in their honor on September 8. Their year of training will include a series of lectures, demonstrations, and practical experience (with emphasis on reference and technical services), and individual project assignments related to developing or managing information systems and services. These assignments not only contribute to the Associates' professional growth, but are also of practical value to NLM.

• Patricia Bosma (M.L.S., University of Maryland; B.S. in psychology from Towson State College, Maryland) is no stranger to NLM staff. She has been here since 1972 as the coordinator for work performed by a company having several contracts with Library. Since her work for the contractor was primarily in technical and reference services, she concentrated on these areas in her graduate studies at the University of Maryland. She was elected to the psychology honor society, Psi Chi, during her undergraduate career.

Pictured left to right: Patricia Bosma, Rebecca Davidson, Lou Snyder, and Judith Bube—new NLM Library Associates for 1976-1977.

• Rebecca Davidson (M.S.L.S., and A.B. in psychology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) was employed for several years as a cataloger at the Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina. She held a Graduate Assistantship there and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Her seminar and research papers for the master's degree were all concerned with some aspect of medical librarianship.

• Lou Snyder (M.L.S., Indiana University; B.A. in zoology from Miami University, Ohio) held a Graduate Assistantship at Indiana University. Her area of concentration there will be particularly useful at NLM: computer applications and information science. At Miami University, Miss Snyder was elected to Phi Sigma, the honorary society in biology.

• Judith Bube (M.S.L.S., University of Southern California; B.A. in telecommunications, Califor-

nia State University at Northridge) has worked as a Library Assistant in serial records maintenance at the U.S.C. Library. She became acquainted with MEDLINE while preparing an extensive annotated bibliography on the use of lithium carbonate to treat mental disorders. She made the dean's list in her college work and was graduated magna cum laude.

Library science graduates, with a master's-level degree by September 1977, are invited to apply for next year's Library Associate program. Inquires should be sent to Mrs. Maxine Hanke of the Office of the Associate Director for Library Operations.

Bicentennial Colloquium on Videotape

The National Medical Audiovisual Center now has available through its loan distribution program a series of 18 videocassettes originally recorded at the "Colloquium on the Bicentennial of Medicine in the U.S.," May 6-7, 1976 The June 1976 *News* was devoted to the Colloquium. The series is introduced by the NLM Director, Dr. Cummings, and it includes the oral presentations of the 39 distinguished participants.

The videotapes may be requested on loan by writing to the National Medical Audiovisual Center (Annex), Distribution Section, Station K, Atlanta, Georgia 30324. At a later date they will be available for sale through the National Audiovisual Center, General Services Administration. The *NLM News* will carry the prices and ordering information when they are available.

MEDLARS Tools from NTIS

Prices and accession numbers have been announced for the following technical publications which are available from the National Technical Information Service (Springfield, Virginia 22161).

Indexing Manual
MEDLARS Indexing Manual (Part I: Bibliographic Principles and Descriptive Indexing, 1977. Thelma Charen. Price: $6.00 ($3.00 microfiche). Accession number: PB-254-270.

This portion of the *MEDLARS Indexing Manual* includes the following sections: MEDLARS, Journal Title Abbreviations, Handstamp, Pagination, Language, Author, Title, Author Affiliation, Author Abstract, and Monographs. The principles and procedures discussed apply beginning with the 1977 *Index Medicus.* The second half of the Manual (Part II), to appear later, will deal with the technical aspects of indexing, including chapters on check tags, subheadings, and indexing principles for the various categories.

MeSH: Annotated Alphabetic List
Medical Subject Headings: Annotated Alphabetic List, 1977. Price: $16.25 ($3.00 microfiche). Accession number: PB-255-932 (Supersedes PB-243-901).

This publication lists all subject descriptors used by NLM indexers and catalogers; it includes MeSH terms, cross references, geographic headings, non-MeSH terms, and indexing instructions.

MeSH: Tree Structures
Medical Subject Headings: Tree Structures, 1977. Price: $12.00 ($3.00 microfiche). Accession number: PB-255-933 (Supersedes PB-243-900).

All Medical Subject Headings currently in use by the National Library of Medicine's indexers, catalogers, and searchers are arranged in a hierarchical manner showing relationships between broader and narrower terms. Included are minor and geographic descriptors. (Note: Part 2 of the January 1977 issue of *Index Medicus* will include this listing of "Trees," except for geographic descriptors.)

MeSH: Tree Annotations
Medical Subject Headings: Tree Annotations, 1977. Price: $5.50 ($3.00 microfiche). Accession number: PB-257-939.

Designed as a companion to *MeSH Annotated Alphabetic List, Tree Annotations* has a two-fold purpose: first, to give a general statement on the approach an indexer or searcher should pursue to a given tree, and second, to advise him of special features within that tree that he should be aware of before indexing or searching.

NLM Serial Gap List

The following journal issues are this month's continuation to the list of gaps in the Library's collection. If you can supply any of these items, please address them to:

National Library of Medicine
TSD-GAPS
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20014

Aging and Human Development v. 1, 1970
AID; Journal of the Ambulance Association of America 6:1,3,4,6,8,10,11,12, 1971; 7:11, 1972; 9:4,5,6,11,12,1974
Alabama Family Physician 2:10,12, 1969; 3:3, 1970; 4:4,6,7,11,12, 1971; 5:1,6,8,12, 1972; 9:3, 1976
Alabama Journal of Medical Sciences 7:1-4
Alcoholism Review (Vancouver) 2:1-6, 1963; 3:1-6, 1964; 4:1-6, 1965; 5:1-4, 1966; 6:1,2 1967
Alcoholism; A Treatment Digest for Physicians v. 12, March, September 1963; v. 13, December 1964; v. 14, March, June September, December 1965; v. 15, December 1966, v. 16, September 1967; v. 19, March 1970
Allied Health Trends 1:2-5, 1969; 2:1-3, 1970
Allied Medical Education Newsletter v. 1, 1968; 2:22, 1969; 3:1,3-7, 1970; 4:8,11, 1971; 5:1,3, 1972; 6:10, 1973; 7:1,2,4,12, 1974
American Druggist 170:7,10,12, 1974
American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse 1:4, 1974
American Journal of Orthopedic Surgery 11:5-7, 12, 1969
American Journal of Physical Anthropology v. 33, 1967
American Laboratory v. 1, 1968; 1971, no. 2; 4:2-4, 1972
American Nurse 7:8, 1975
American Patient 1:2-4, 1969
California GP 22:3,6, 1971; 23:1,3,4,6, 1972; 24:5, 1973
Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science 2:4, 1970; 6:1, 1974
Pennsylvania Psychiatric Quarterly 4:1,2,4, 1964; 5:2,3,4, 1965, 6:1-3, 1966; 7:1, 1967
Proceedings of the Business Sessions; American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Meeting 1967-1973
Program; Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association 1964

Corrected Literature Search List

The August issue of the *News* (page 4) carried a partially incorrect list of new Literature Searches. The list below corrects the errors and adds two new searches.

A complete list of Literature Searches appears in each issue of *Index Medicus* and *Abridged Index Medicus*. When requesting Literature Searches (available without charge), please include title and number, enclose a self-addressed gummed label, and mail to:

Literature Search Program
Reference Section
National Library of Medicine
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

LS 76-32 *Ambulance service.* September 1972 through July 1976. 385 citations.
LS 76-33 *Vasoactive intestinal polypeptide.* January 1974 through June 1976. 49 citations.
LS 76-34 *The National Library of Medicine: selected references from the biomedical literature.* January 1966 through July 1976. 471 citations.
LS 76-35 *Informed consent.* May 1974 through June 1976. 403 citations.
LS 76-36 *The role of interferon and interferon inducers in cancer.* January 1974 through June 1976. 127 citations.
LS 76-37 *Provision of health care to the poor in the U.S.* (Updates LS 72-21) July 1972 through July 1976. 359 citations.

Medicinal Herb Garden Planted

As part of its celebration of the Bicentennial year, NLM has prepared a small medicinal herb garden in front of the Library. Sixteen representative plants of medicinal significance have been planted — including the familiar Common Thyme, Oriental Poppy, Lavender Cotton, and Rosemary.*

Of necessity, the Library's new medicinal garden is quite modest. Many of the great university herb gardens of Europe have been developing for centuries. In laying out the NLM garden, the planners sought an appropriate compromise between the sometimes conflicting interests of aesthetics, adaptability to climate, and medicinal significance.

In embarking on this project, the Library joins a centuries-long tradition of association among medicine, books, and botany. Throughout history man has looked to the plant kingdom for medicine to heal wounds, alleviate pain, and cure disease. In the European tradition, the great herbals of the 16th through 19th centuries were as much textbooks of the healing arts as they were botanical compendia. (The Library's History of Medicine Division houses a fine collection of these often beautiful books.)

There is a renewed interest today in the subject of medicinal herbs. Although twentieth century science has discredited the curative properties attributed to many plants in folklore, modern medicine is also rediscovering the healing powers of some plants which had been too readily dismissed or forgotten.

A recent NLM Literature Search (LS 76-27, *Herbal medicine*) includes 121 references entered into the MEDLINE data base between January 1974 and May 1976. Another Search (LS 76-28) lists 56 references to articles dealing with *Licorice in the treatment of peptic ulcer.* Both bibliographies are available without charge through the Library's Literature Search Program, Reference Section.

Other plants in the garden include: Sweet Woodruff, Lady's Mantle, Foxglove, Salvia, Calandula, Sweet William, Christmas Rose, Flowering Periwinkle, Purple Basil, Clump-Red Allium, Mixed Colors Primrose, and Tobacco Plant.

The layout of the Library's new medicinal herb garden is patterned after the architecture of the NLM building. Located in front of the Library, the garden contains 16 representative plants with current or historical medicinal significance. It was designed and planted under the direction of Thomas J. Cook, Chief of the NIH Grounds Maintenance and Landscaping Section. James Stengle, M.D., of NLM's Lister Hill Center, was advisor on the project.

Personnel Notes

Recent gains and losses to NLM's staff:

New employees

John P. Connors, Computer Specialist, Computer Technology Branch, Lister Hill Center

Christine A. Chapman, Computer Specialist, Computer Technology Branch, Lister Hill Center

Sarah R. Schiebel, Librarian, History of Medicine Division, Library Operations

Samuel Yep, Electronics Engineer, Communications Engineering Branch, Lister Hill Center

Retiring employee

Marjorie A. Stuff, Librarian, History of Medicine Division, Library Operations

March IM: Complete in 1 Book

The Library has been receiving numerous letters regarding the fact that the spine and front cover of the March 1976 issue of *Index Medicus* say "Part I." This was a printing error; no additional parts were printed or planned.

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